

December 23, 2003

DECLARATION

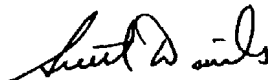
Re: International Application No.: PCT/JP00/01678
International Filing Date: March 17, 2000
U.S. Serial No.: 09/987,464
U.S. Filing Date: November 14, 2001
By: Yasushige Nakamura et al.
Priority Date: July 15, 1999(PCT/JP99/03822)

To whom it may be concerned:

Neither the international application as identified above nor the designation of the United States was withdrawn or considered to be withdrawn prior to the filing date of the U.S. national (35U.S.C.§111(a)) application. Additionally, a demand for international preliminary examination electing the United States was filed within 19 months from the priority date, as evidenced by a copy of the "Notification of Receipt of demand by Competent International Preliminary Examining Authority (Form PCT/IPEA/402)," showing that the demand was received prior to the expiration of 19 months from the priority date, and a copy of the "Notification Concerning Elected Offices Notified of Their Election (Form PCT/IB/332)," showing the election of the United State.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



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Attachment: Copy of Form PCT/IPEA/402

Copy of Form PCT/IB/332

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